Welcome to your guide…

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER INTERVIEW QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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PASSMYINTERVIEW

Q1. Tell me about yourself why you will make a good Electrical Engineer for our company?

Sample Answer:

Thank you for inviting me to be interviewed for this position today. I would like to think I am a safety-focused, results-driven and professional electrical engineer who can be relied upon to carry out my tasks competently within strict rules and procedures in a fast and efficient manner. I say this because over the years I have developed lots of transferrable skills, qualities and experience that make me highly effective as an electrical engineer. For example, in my previous role, my supervisor would often ask me to work on challenging electrical engineering projects that needed an analytical and data driven approach to solving difficult problems. I understand there comes a huge amount of responsibility as an electrical engineer, and if you hire me within this position, I will work hard to repay the faith you will have shown in employing me.

Q2. Why do you want to work for us as an Electrical Engineer?

Sample Answer:

As soon as I saw the position advertised, I knew this was where I wanted to work as an electrical engineer. There are three specific reasons why I want to work for your company. You have a strong reputation within the industry as a high-achieving organization, which means I will be able to work on various electrical tasks and projects utilizing my skills and experience in the process. You also have a reputation as a supportive employer who encourages your staff to continually train, improve and maintain professional competence. Finally, I am looking for long term employment as an electrical engineer, and providing I perform to high standards in the role, which I can assure you I will do, I plan to stay here for a long period of time.

Q3. What skills are needed to become a competent Electrical Engineer in this role?

Sample Answer:

Whilst there are many different skills needed to be an effective electrical engineer, there are 8 that I rely in to perform consistently to high standards in my work. These include, an ability to OPERATE SAFELY WHILST FOLLOWING RULES AND PROCEDURES. This is *the number 1* most important skill needed to be an electrical engineer. You also need excellent PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS, because essentially, electrical engineers are problem solvers. You need a high level of COMPETENCE IN TECHNICAL CIRCUITS AND ELECTRICAL CONCEPTS, ANALYTICAL AND CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS and also strong ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITIES to manage your workload and deliver tasks and projects on time. Finally, you must be able to BUILD STRONG PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS,

COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY and also possess a desire to CONTINUALLY LEARN AND IMPROVE within your role.

Q4. As an Electrical Engineer, how would you develop professional relationships?

Sample Answer:

I believe it's important to build string relationships as an electrical engineer for two main reasons. Firstly, it can help you to complete tasks quickly and more effectively, if you can call on people for help, advice, or support. The second reason is, positive relationships with your work colleagues and senior managers is essential, because you are all working towards the same goal. If you are all working together collaboratively, you will be able to get more done in a faster timeframe. I would develop professional relationships by keeping in regular communication with important team members, my supervisors and also vital stakeholders. I would also support them in their work and always make sure I represented you company in a positive manner at all times when both communicating and also carrying out essential electrical engineering work.

Q5. Give me an example of a technical Electrical Engineering project you worked on?

Sample Answer:

SITUATION: In my previous electrical engineering role, I was part of a team that was responsible for designing and installing an electrical patient lift in a new hospital.

TASK: It was our task to work together as a team, discuss the design and build options and then install the patient chair safely whilst following all relevant standards and safety procedures.

ACTION: During the initial team brief we discussed the specification needed by the hospital, and I explained the limitations from an electrical engineering perspective and what I could do to make the project work successfully. Throughout the project I maintained a flexible approach from an electrical engineering angle, I supported the other team members and made sure I focused at all times on the needs of the hospital whilst keeping a close eye on safety and technical standards.

RESULT: Three months after starting work on the project, the electrical patient chair had been designed and installed successfully and it became an important part of the hospital's day-to-day operations.

Q6. As an Electrical Engineer, what steps do you follow when solving technical problems?

Sample Answer:

I always use the same, fundamental steps when solving any form of electrical engineering problem. These are: DEFINING THE PROBLEM and gaining CLARITY of the issue; CONFIRMING the exact

problem by utilizing all relevant facts and information available; DIAGNOSING the problem; RECTIFYING the cause and then the TESTING stage. Depending on the circumstances or situation, I would also consider the TRAINING stage. Training may have to carried out by the end user of they needed to be trained in the correct operation of the tool, resource or system that encountered the initial problem.

Q7. Tell me how you manage your time when undertaking Electrical Engineering tasks or projects?

Sample Answer:

Being organized is absolutely vital during any engineering project, no matter how fast it is moving. Thankfully, I am naturally an extremely organized person who likes to keep check-lists of everything I do. This allows me to manage my time in segments, so I know exactly how much time I need to spend on each specific electrical project or task area. I guess you could say I am quite a meticulous planner and worker, which is quite a positive strength to have within this role. I would also ensure I communicated effectively at all times during the project or task, and whilst I am not a massive lover of meetings, I do see these an essential part of any electrical engineering project, as this allows you to prioritize collectively what comes next as part of the bigger picture. I also like to plan quite far ahead, as this allows me to visualize what might be coming next as part of the project. It also allows me to consider any possible threats to the project and potential problems we all might face along the way. Finally, at the end of each working day, I take a few moments to reflect to see if my performance, or the performance of the team, could be improved in any way. If I do all of that, my skills as an electrical engineer are continually improving and developing.

Q8. What do you enjoy the most and the least about being an Electrical Engineer?

Sample Answer:

The aspects I most enjoy about electrical engineering are having the ability to make a significant difference to an organization by the work I carry out on a day-to-day basis, or whilst completing a complex electrical engineering project as part of a team. It is quite a unique privilege to be able to analyse and solve problems for your employer. I also like the challenge the role brings, because you really have to utilize an innovative and creative way to solving complex electrical engineering issues as and when they arise. In respect of the least enjoyable aspects, I would have to say it's the continuous professional development commitments that come with the role, simply because these take you away from working on the important things you need to do for your employer. Having said that, if it wasn't for

the continuous professional development aspect, and also keeping up-to-date with industry developments, you would not be able to operate safely or carry out your role diligently and professionally.

Q9. Tell me the type of electrical engineering tasks or projects you get the most satisfaction out of?

Sample Answer:

It would have to be the type of electrical engineering problems where I can have a significant impact on people's lives for the long-term. For example, in a previous role I was tasked with working as part of an electrical engineering design team who developed a patients lift at a new local hospital. Once the project was completed, we were invited along to the opening day to see how our contribution to the project was going to make a big difference to the hospital. Those are the type of projects I get the most satisfaction from.

Q10. What has been your greatest success to date as an Electrical Engineer?

Sample Answer:

It would have to be an electrical engineering design problem I worked on as part of team in my previous job. I was part of a twelve-person team who were tasked with providing a disabled-lift solution for a number of care homes within our region. It was an extremely complex task, simply because we had to work to a set budget whilst also maintaining safety standards and conforming to the relevant regulations. After 5 weeks hard work, we managed to collectively come up with a suitable solution that made a significant and positive impact to the living lives of many disabled people across the country. Although I am very comfortable working alone as an electrical engineer, I find the collective and collaborative team approach to tasks extremely rewarding, especially when they end up making such a difference to people's lives.

Q11. Tell me about a time when you made a mistake as an Electrical Engineer. How did you recover?

Sample Answer:

The biggest mistake I have made as an electrical engineer was in the early days of my career when I simply could not say no to anything. I ended up taking on three difficult projects, and all of them had their challenges! I ended up having to ask for help with two of the projects which was embarrassing, as I had initially said I would be able to complete them all on my own with no problem. Although I did manage to

get them all completed, I learned a tremendous amount from that situation and I now always make sure I assess each job carefully and thoroughly beforehand.

Q12. How do you maintain competence as an Electrical Engineer?

Sample Answer:

I make sure I regularly focus on the competencies needed to become an electrical engineer and demonstrate them in my work before getting my supervisor to sign off conformation of competence following each task or project. The regular competencies I focus on are, electrical system installations, including safety and maintenance activities; providing technical support, advice and guidance; planning implementation and control, problem solving and decision making capabilities; and also project management skills. I keep a record of my competencies including the signing off process, so I can prove my competence at any stage if required. In addition to this, I will also attend relevant training courses as and when there is a requirement for me to do so.

Q13. As our Electrical Engineer, what safeguards would you put in place to ensure your work is safe and compliant?

Sample Answer:

I basically do two things at the end of every electrical engineering task I work on. Firstly, I utilize my 'error-free' check sheet. This is something one of my first tutors at university shared with the class one day, and it's a vital resource for ensuring everything is safe, correct and compliant. Secondly, I get a second pair of experienced eyes to look over my work as this not only provides a reassuring confirmation that my work is safe, but having another electrical engineer analyse my work might find a better and more efficient way of achieving the desired results. The bottom line is, I take safety and compliance extremely seriously and I would always utilize my 'double-check method' for ensuring all work I do is both safe and compliant.

Q14. You are attending a project meeting with a number of non-technical managers. They are struggling to understand your proposed electrical engineering solution because it is too complex. What would you do?

Sample Answer:

I would try to use visual explanations that they were all familiar with. For example, if the room was full of people who had a passion for cars, which lots of people do, I would use the construction of a car as the analogy when describing my electrical engineering concept or project. For example, I might say:

"If you try to imagine a car travelling along the road, the wheels enable the car to travel forward based on their shape. If you apply the same principle to my electrical engineering project, you will see that object A is able to move forward because of object B.", or something similar to that example so they can all relate to it. I would also utilize drawings and diagrams, as the visual aspect is far easier to understand and follow, before giving people ample time to ask questions.

Q15. Describe a time when you worked on a challenging electrical engineering project or task?
Sample Answer:
I was working on an important electrical installation project for a client in a previous role when my supervisor informed me the client had changed their mind about the project specifications. I only had 7 days left to complete the project as the timeline for completion remained the same. I needed to start the project again, from scratch. In order to meet the deadline, I needed to ask another member of the team to assist me with some electrical technical aspects of the change to the specifications. After finding a suitably qualified person to help me, I briefed them on what was required, and more importantly, the timeline for completion. We both set to work on the new project with enthusiasm, rigor and determination. As the deadline was approaching, I had the feeling I was not going to complete the project on time, so I decided to work from home the hours needed to meet the target. I am the type of person who does not like to let my employer down, so I didn't really mind putting in the extra hours. My colleague and I managed to finish and deliver the project to the client with literally two hours to spare.

Q16. Tell me a time when you experienced challenging problems during an electrical engineering project or task?
Sample Answer:
During my last electrical engineering project, we encountered problems with a client who continually asked for changes to the specification at a reduced costs. The client was becoming increasingly demanding, and although we had made a couple of changes to the spec already, he kept asking for more. It got to the point where I felt the project was in danger of becoming unsafe if we made further changes, and so I decided to arrange a conference call with the client to discuss things and to explain my concerns. During the call, he started making demands again and he reminded me who was paying for the project. I remained calm and politely explained to him the consequences of cutting corners from an electrical safety perspective, and the potential ramifications if things went wrong. I also explained how it could impact negatively on his brand if anything dangerous happened and this would obviously cause issues from a negative news situation. As soon as I mentioned the potential problems, he changed his

tone and agreed to stop requesting unreasonable demands. From my perspective, it is very important to be upfront and honest when dealing with clients during any project and safety must always come first, no matter what.

Q17. Tell me when you had to deal with conflict in a team?

Sample Answer:

I was working as part of a project a couple of years ago and I was a junior electrical engineer at the time. There were, in my opinion, too many people involved in the project and this caused problems, conflict and barriers that all contributed to issues during the execution stage of the project. During one particular team meeting, things had come to a head and two members of the team started arguing in front of everyone else. I had had enough, and so I decided to get involved with a view to sorting things out quickly. Whilst they were arguing, I stood up in the meeting and said out loud in a firm but non-aggressive tone, for everyone to be quiet. I then went on to explain that, as the junior electrical engineer I was quite appalled at this behaviour and that I had serious concerns about the project missing important deadlines. I also stated that, unless we all started working collectively and positively as a group I would inform our CEO about the issues we were all facing. Although this was a last resort, I felt something drastic needed to be done, and it certainly had the desired impact. Once I finished saying what I wanted to say, everyone started clapping and other people in the room agreed with my concerns. This was a turning point in the project lifecycle and the project leader started to take control of the conflict and the issues to ensure the project got back on track.

Q18. What are your weaknesses?

Sample Answer:

If I am being honest, I would say my weakness is my frustration when dealing with unreasonable clients who do not understand how important it is to operate safely at all times and to not cut corners during electrical engineering projects or tasks. Whilst I a someone who understands businesses have tight budgets, I have a responsibility to them to make sure the work I do is safe. Having said that, although I do get frustrated with them, they would never know it as I will always act with the utmost professionalism and integrity at all times.

Q19. What are your strengths?

Sample Answer:

My strengths include technical competence, an ability to work well alone, unsupervised, and also my ability to work collaboratively part of a team. I also have a passion for electrical engineering so the work I carry out is always to a very high standard – basically, if you need a job doing, you will be able to leave me alone to get in with it, safe in the knowledge it will be done on time and to the necessary standards. I also have strengths in respect of problem solving capabilities, project management skills and also communication and relationship building.

Q20. Where do you see yourself in 5 years' time?

Sample Answer:

I am now at the stage in my career where I am looking for solid and stable employment where I can utilize my electrical engineering skills and expertise and put them to good use. I want to work for you for a long period of time, and if I am successful, I see myself becoming an integral part of your team. In fact, I would certainly be open to developing in the role and also training younger electrical engineers up to the required standard as and when they join the organization.

Q21. That's the end of your Electrical Engineer interview, do you have any questions for the panel?

Sample Answer:

Thank you. Yes, I do:

Q. What are the most difficult challenges you have been facing from an electrical engineering perspective over the last 12 months?

Q. If I am successful, what would you need me to concentrate on immediately within the first few things of starting?

Q. Do you have any exciting or new plans for the organization over the forthcoming 12 months?

How to Use These Interview Questions and Answers:

These interview questions and answers are intended to guide you in your preparation for your job interview. These questions have been picked by the PassMyInterview team because we believe that they are the best representative of what you will face in your interview.

The sample answers in this resource are collated from years of experience and research in the recruitment sector. The answers confidently display the appropriate qualities and competencies that the interviewer expects from successful candidates.

Read the sample answers carefully, and take note of what skills and competencies they demonstrate. You might notice that, when the question asks for examples, the answer uses the STAR method to construct the response:

Situation. Start off your response to the interview question by explaining what the 'situation' was and who was involved.

Task. Once you have detailed the situation, explain what the 'task' was, or what needed to be done.

Action. Now explain what 'action' you took, and what action others took. Also explain why you took this particular course of action.

Result. Explain to the panel what you would do differently if the same situation arose again. It is good to be reflective at the end of your responses. This demonstrates a level of maturity and it will also show the panel that you are willing to learn from every experience.

In order to get the best possible results, apply this system to your own examples and experiences in working life. These sample answers are intended to inspire you to create your own responses to the questions.

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